WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

Socialism has reached a point where it commands attention.

Socialism can neither be dismissed as an idle dream, nor put down as a danger to society.

Wake up then! Read, and study your conditions of life. Don't allow your mind to become osstified.

If you were given what you earned in your occupation, you would soon have no master. You are made to divide up with those who have motor cars, yachts, receptions, European tours, and other things that you never get.

Study Socialism carefully, and you will see why your master and his favorite editor do not like it.

Your boss is class-conscious, but he hopes you are not, for he knows that if you were his time as an exploiter would be short.

Just watch the man who is opposing and disproving Socialism. You will find that he is usually a man who is afraid of work, and who is getting his living from the efforts of others.

Plenty of fresh air and light are the best medicine for the body. Socialist literature is the best medicine for a mind impaired by the Capitalist Press, militarists, loyalists, patriots, and lowlickers.

The worker produces all good things, such as food, clothing, houses, etc. The Capitalist produces only evil—misery, vice, poverty, and crime. If the worker is entitled to his product, what is the capitalist entitled to?

Times are changing. The workers are becoming alert and are beginning to see through the duplicity of those who rule and fleece them. Strikes are becoming more and more frequent, and it is no longer possible for college-bred men, and graduates of biz business to lead the workers about by the nose.

We no longer need a telescope to see Socialism coming. The roar of the parasites tells of its near approach. Neither do we require a microscope to see the horrors of the Capitalist system. In the city and village hamlet, in the factory and the hospital, the trail of the filthy monster may be seen with the naked eye.

When Lord Mayors, undergrads, and various social parasites have to take their coats off and go scabbing, the value of Socialist propaganda is apparent. So also is the reason why Socialist speakers are being jailed by the Lord Mayor's flunkies and the Chief Secretary's bludgeoners.

"A marvellous thing," says Sydney "Worker," has been accomplished by the Labor movement. It means the Labor Party in Australia. It has abolished poverty for old age." That is fine. Now the affluent Old Age Pensioner may be seen taking his wine under his own fig tree, or taking the fresh air in his luxurious motor car—on ten bob a week.

"Labor's Old Age Pension Act is an epoch-making law," says "The Worker." "It dispels the black shadow of want from the minds of those for whom life's day is waning to its close. And it rescues our Commonwealth from a state of things which is one of the foulest blots on modern civilization."

Henceforth we are safe the "foulest blot" has been abolished from Australia. Let us hear no more about the class struggle. This is now a land where old age is affluent.

What does it matter if there are some who cannot get work, and others who get work at from 10s a week and upwards. Such wasters are provided for when they grow old by the Labor Party.

If the cost of living goes up until they can save nothing out of their magnificent wages there is still the Labor Party's Old Age Pension Act to save them when they grow old.

The "foulest blot" being abolished, Australia becomes a land of plenty a land of high wages and ideal conditions. There are no unemployed, for instead of the workers chasing masters the masters are chasing workers.

There are now ten jobs offered to every man who wants one, and all good men are fully employed. Only wasters are idle.

Keep the Labor Party in power and enjoy prosperity and a happy old age under the Pension Act. The workers are now on a level with judges and other top-notch pensioners. People who say otherwise are fools and rogues.

There is no need now to strike, for we have the Arbitration Act to prevent strikes. Any man who strikes now is a criminal. He commits a crime against every shareholder in the community, and no Labor Government will stand that. The workers must be taught to look to Arbitration for the settlement of disputes, and if they are settled against them, still they have the Old Age Pension to look forward to. Then give three cheers for the Labor Party and give them your vote every time.

Since the advent of the Labor Party Australia has been transformed. It is a land flowing with milk and honey, and there is not a single fly in our ointment. What if prices do go up! There are plenty of "old clothes" shops where we can buy cheap things, or sell our superfluous duds, and make money with which to buy the dearer things.

Australia is now the paradise of the working man. Its foulest blot has been abolished, and other blots are only minor ones. Why our youths are even compelled to train and become good and strong. Military officers, specially trained in barracks, are actually imported to attend to their physical and moral welfare. It is a cruel slander, and a diabolical lie to call such a system Conscription. It is merely compulsory training in all that is physically and morally good; and herein lies the great wisdom of the scheme it actually preserves our citizen rights and liberties. No man is compelled to train, he can refuse and go to jail.

We are the freest and wisest people on earth. Even our Legislative Councillors take Labor Members Kavanagh and Flowers by the hand and help them to pass Labor legislation. As Premier Scaddan, of West Australia, has said in London, every man has a stake in the country, and has, unlike the English worker, something to defend. That is why we favor compulsory training here, but oppose Conscription in England.

In Premier McGowen's constituency, Redfern, N.S.W., there is a colony of Assyrians. They are philanthropists who give poor women shirts to take home to make. They don't sweat them; but allow them to make the shirts for pass time. They have votes which both Labor and Liberal politicians like to get. Premier Jim generally gets their vote because he as an old unionist is against sweating.

The recent Gas Strike, and the Southern Miners' Strike, the prosecution of Socialist speakers before benevolent, gentlemanly magistrates, who kindly order them free board and lodging, the Lord Mayor's scabbing, the operations of strike-breaking, and the cunning efforts of the diabolical Press to get the workers to vote Liberal, are all proofs that the Labor Party is doing good work. No man is forced to work at uncongenial labor. He can tell his boss to do the job himself, and go and look for another. If he doesn't like to go and look for another, he can do nothing, and lay and wait for the old age pension.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan, King of the financial pirates of America, recently travelled from Alexandria to Naples. He reserved eight state-rooms on board the steamer at a cost of £5000, and a special room at a Naples' hotel for which he paid £500. He couldn't sleep in more than one state-room at once, but, true to Capitalism, he would not allow anyone else to use what they required.

According to "Cotton's Weekly," Canada, Canadian comrades have opened a fund to enable the widow of Dr. Kotoku to leave Japan and take up her residence in Canada. Dr. Kotoku, the Japanese translator of Karl Marx, was murdered by the Japanese authorities.

According to Sydney "Daily Telegraph" 20 balance-sheets published at the close of January, 1913, showed that nearly £100,000 more profit was obtained during that month than was obtained in January, 1912. The same paper frequently states that the profit-hunter is being scared away from Australia by "industrial unrest," and the exhorbitant demands of labor.

Says Melbourne "Age": "It is a healthy sign of the times that some new Federal candidates, as well as many of the old ones, are declaring for the Initiative Referendum." Just so, and the time is at hand when the workers will recognise that there is no real difference between the Liberalism of the "Age" and the Laborism of the "Worker."

N.S.W. Minister for Works, Mr. Griffiths, warns the buyer of bricks against paying commission to brokers and others for alleged assistance in obtaining supplies from the State brick works. He states that all requests for supplies are dealt with by the manager personally, and he will not receive any recommendations of any sort from anyone. The Minister for Works always says such things, and yet the brokers thrive. To say that the manager personally deals with requests for bricks doesn't abolish the broker. It only warns him that he must cultivate "business" relations with the manager directly, instead of troubling anyone else in the Works Department. In the Lands Department, the same kind of announcements used to be made before the inquiry into the "land scandals" disclosed the fact that the commission agents, who were mostly members of Parliament, had, with the aid of ministers and their understrappers, robbed land users of hundreds of thousands of pounds. If the brokers are causing Mr. Griffith to safeguard himself by announcing that they are powerless, it looks as if a brick scandal is developing. And when Mr. Griffith carries out the Labor ideal and nationalises all other industries, what a happy time the political brokers will have!

Writing in the Sydney "Worker," 13/3/13, Senator Rae says: "One other reform which goes to the root of our defence system requires to be emphasised, and that is an amendment of the Act to prevent our citizen forces from being employed for any other purpose than defence against a foreign invader. For no other purpose would Australians ever consent to compulsory military training and service, for no other purpose should the citizens of a self-governing community ever be required. To enrol men for one purpose and demand their services for another, and totally different purpose, is legislative fraud and trickery of the basest description. It is within the present constitutional powers of Parliament to make this amendment at any time, and every candidate should be compelled to give a definite declaration on this matter." If Senator Rae is sincere in his denunciation of the base trickery of enrolling men for one purpose, and demanding their services for another, then he has good cause for a battle royal with his leaders Mr. Fisher and Senator Pearce, both of whom have been guilty of this same baseness. If Senator Rae wants proof of this, this paper will be glad to furnish it from the speeches of the gentlemen themselves.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

Labor Raising Himself from the Abyss.

CAPITAL (deeply shocked at Labor's efforts to emerge): "Back to your abyss, Sir! How dare you attempt to get out of the hole in which it has pleased your divine masters to place you."

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The capitalist class is to-day the ruling class, having wrested the governing power from the old landed nobility, and wherever labor seeks its rights it finds itself thwarted by this class under the guise of government. To-day the courts, the laws, the press, the legislatures, the police, the state and national troops, and often the pulpit, are dominated and controlled by this ruling class. This condition makes it necessary for the proletariat to master the governing power.—*Chas. H. Vail.*

Tell-tale Praise.

Liberals Praise Labor Leaders.

Laborites should have a good look at themselves to see how much they resemble the Liberals.

The Labor Party should fuse permanently with the Liberals, or at least it should secure a mirror and have a good look at itself to make sure that it doesn't look exactly like the other party. When the Liberals shower unstinted praise upon Labor Ministers the need of the mirror should be felt by every humble and devout warrior in the ranks. During the recent Gas Strike, the New South Wales Labor Government issued the following Liberal proclamation:—

"A fair and reasonable proposal from the Government for the settlement of the present dispute having been refused by the men concerned, and the welfare of the general public is being jeopardised by the non-supply of gas for the community, I, as head of the Government of New South Wales, with the advice of my colleagues, now call upon the citizens of Sydney to meet the public interest by aiding the Government to keep order, and by securing a gas supply for the public.

(Signed) J. S. T. McGOWEN,
"Premier."

On the publication of this scab proclamation the Liberal Press forgot that the Government was a Labor one, and commenced to throw bouquets at the Ministry. The following is a fair sample of the encomiums showered upon the Labor Government:—

"The Cabinet decided to issue a proclamation calling upon the citizens to assist in maintaining order, and to assist in the production of gas. This virtually amounts to a guarantee that the Government will encourage volunteer labor and will protect such labor.

The statement issued on behalf of the Government last night with regard to the gas strike is admirable in both tone and language.—"S.M. Herald."

The Ministry, speaking through the Premier, places the public interest before the will of the unionists on strike, and will use the whole power of the law residing in its hands to break the strike, and enable the work of the gas undertakings to be carried on, whether by unionists or by non-unionists.—"The Sun."

The leader of the Opposition, Mr. Wade, also hastened to say that he would not embarras the Government if Parliament were called together to deal with the Gas Strike. So apparently, the Liberals and Laborites temporarily openly fused. In spite of this fusion of the leaders, however, the political Labor Leagues in the country are passing votes of confidence in the McGowen Government. They should really take a good look at themselves.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. W. M. HUGHES.

The rumoured passing of Mr. Hughes from politics to the Chairmanship of the Interstate Commission and £2500 a year, has given the Liberal Press a favourable opportunity to say some pleasant things of one, whom the workers had always believed to be truly their own. Mr. Hughes has always been regarded as a valiant champion of Labor principles, and as such, was always admired for the doughty manner in which he smote the enemies of labor in the Liberal strongholds. Now, however, it turns out that the most conservative of Liberals had a sneaking regard for the little battler, and were not so much opposed to his principles as the workers were wont to suppose. The very reverend and very conservative "S.M. Herald," of March 15, writes sympathetically of little Billie's retirement, and admiringly speaks of the way he raised himself out of the working-class rut of wage slavery to the lofty pinnacle of such a lucrative position as that which he has attained. The "Herald" says:—

"The history of Mr. Hughes's life affords remarkable illustration of the way in which, in Australia, the highest position in thet land can be attained by a man of ability and force of character, without the adventitious aids of wealth and family, or such influence. Nay more, in Mr. Hughes's case his ability and energy have won him his position, despite great handicaps. The essential principle of democracy is to afford to every man and woman equality of opportunity. And the fact that a man like Mr. Hughes has been able to rise above the difficulties of his early years, and occupy the prominent position that he has in our public life, proves that the Australian democracy is true to that essential principle."

There you have it. Under the Australian democracy any man with the energy of a donkey engine and a force pump, with a hide like a rhinosceros, the ability of a Bully Hayes, and a feeling which enables him to set self before every other consideration, can rise to wealth and comfort at the age when he can no longer enjoy it. W. M. Hughes had special abilities, which, under Capitalism, are valuable. He made good use of his abilities and the opportunities that presented themselves, and by pushing everlastingly with all his unusual and extraordinary energy to get himself in front, succeeded in a remarkable degree. That is all. In the face of facts all the favorite guff of the dope-workers fades into thin air. Practice thrift! Be industrious! Strive to rise in the world! Be economical! Develop your muscles and become able and energetic! Lay by something from each week's wage, and become rich, for that is the way that all rich men begin! All men have equal opportunities! Both Hughes and Cook began poor like you! The way to get rich is to save! Deny yourself something! Practice self-denial till it becomes a habit! Buy a home of your own! And then when the next strike comes against some act of robbery or cruel injustice, you will have something for a capitalist government to swoop down on because you have "struck against the community," and injured business!

SOCIALISM WINNING IN EVERY LAND.

Finland now has 83 out of 200 members representing the Social Democratic Party in the Lower House.

In Norway the Socialist vote increased from 7000 to 91,000 in the last twelve years.

Sweden has more than doubled its Socialist vote in the last four years.

The Party in France recently polled more than a million votes, and now has 75 members in the National Parliament, a gain of 21 over the previous election.

Germany has 110 members and 4½ million ballots representing the S. D. Party.

China recently returned 20 Socialists to Parliament.

In Japan Socialist propaganda is rapidly and vigorously proceeding.

The Socialist vote more than doubled in four years in the United States.

Throughout the world Socialists number over 50 millions.

Socialism may have its roots in matter; it may mean food and clothing and houses for those who need them, but its blossoms and fruit are higher up.

Socialism, in addition to its material and industrial factors to which science and philosophy must possess heart throbs and social passions before it can triumph over the powers of darkness which rule to-day.

Ingersoll was right; above all the discoveries of thinkers; above all the victories, won in the field of intellectual conflict, rises human sympathy and the sense of justice.

"When the angel of pity is driven from the heart, when the fountain of tears is dry, the soul becomes a serpent crawling in the dust of the desert."

The Socialists of Australia should develop some of the energy and enthusiasm of their comrades in the above countries. In working for Socialism you are working for yourselves, your children, and the whole human race.

It is all a matter of knowledge, and if all those who stand aloof, and remain outside the branches of the Australian Socialist Party would join and devote a little of their spare time to propaganda work the Party would soon be the strongest in the State. Get bundles of the paper and other literature, and get busy.

Join the Australian Socialist Party. If there is no branch in your town, form one. You believe in Socialism, but faith without work is dead. Don't be a deadhead. Fasten to this paraphrase of Paul's satire: "Thou believest in Socialism, thou doest well: many capitalists also believe and tremble." We want men and women who are alive to join this live movement and appeal to the indifferent and sleepy.

Melbourne Unemployed.

How Politicians Assist.

Both Labor and Liberal governments are engaged in the dastardly business of flooding the country with surplus labor.

By J. R. Wilson.

At a mass meeting of the unemployed held in the Treasury Gardens on a recent Thursday, it was clearly demonstrated to even the most case hardened and callous supporter of the present Capitalistic regime, that there is at the present moment in Melbourne, and in the State of Victoria, an increasing army of unemployed men, and if the writer is not sadly mistaken, lively times are in store for the State Liberal Government during the winter months, as it is upon their shoulders right or wrong, the blame is being put by their friends of the Opposition benches.

That they are as a Government, to a considerable extent responsible for the glutted state of the Labor market, will not be denied, but that they are wholly responsible as Parliamentarians is quite another matter. Moreover, if it is true what alleged Labor champions have got to say about labor conditions being misrepresented abroad, then since all the State Governments' Labor and Liberal allies are engaged in exactly the same dirty, dastardly business, there is little or no reason why Labor Party supporters should single out the Liberal State Government exclusively.

But to return to the main object of the meeting itself, which was to hear an answer from Mr. Murray, the Acting-Premier, re the possibility of employment being provided by the Government for those disengaged, many whose hopes ran high were to receive a rude shock.

Mr. Solly, M.L.A., and Mr. Elmslie, M.L.A., constituted the deputation, and as they had not put in an appearance by eleven o'clock the writer essayed to address those assembled on unemployment and its cause. I had hardly commenced to do so when I was informed by the chairman of the meeting that I was not to be permitted to speak, and in the most abrupt and insulting manner at that. However, I was not to be browbeaten in any such fashion, and immediately called upon all present who desired to hear me to hold up one hand, a forest of hands shot up, and I then called for those against to signify in like manner, when not a single hand was raised against, even the abrupt and bumptuous chairman refrained from voting.

As I outlined the cause of unemployment, and laid bare the treachery of Liberal and Labor Government in this respect, I was accorded a most polite and attentive hearing, judging from the applause accorded me at the close, those assembled seemed to realise the force of the arguments advanced.

After having spoken for upwards of three-quarters of an hour I gave way to the young immigrant, as the Capitalist Press described the secretary of the unemployed, and by the time he had finished Messrs. Elmslie and Solly, M's.L.A., succeeded in putting in an appearance.

Mr. Elmslie was then called upon to speak, and the substance of his remarks were to the effect that, as a result of the interview with the Minister, he had complained that half the men who had been offered employment in the country had for one reason or another, refused to take it, also that there was no prospect of employment in the near future for artisan workers, and further that employment could only be found at present for 10 men road-making at Royal Park, and 40 more at Freestone Creek. The speaker also said that in two months or so, 100 men or more would be required on the Rushworth-Colbinabbin railway, and that if another line under consideration was commenced the number might be increased to 150. It was also stated that Mr. Murray had said it was not the duty of the Government to find work for the unemployed.

Mr. Solly, M.L.A., then spoke for about five minutes, and so far I could see did not seem anxious to say anything, so much so that one unemployed man was heard to remark that he was shy, a comment which was greeted with a titter of laughter by those who heard it. Both Parliamentarians were decidedly noncommittal so far as a solution for the unemployed problem was concerned.

A feature of the meeting was the number of new chums, or immigrants present who are learning from bitter experience that they have been duped, fooled, and tricked. One man informed a member of our party that he had not done a hand's turn of work for several weeks, that he had a wife and family in the old country depending upon his efforts here, to remit them sufficient money to live on, and ultimately, to pay their passage out, and join him as their bread-winner.

Several others declare they had been given employment on arrival by the Labor Bureau, but that they were dismissed after being employed for a fortnight, and yet Mr. Murray has the barefaced impudence to say that while his Government is responsible for all the make-believe in connection with assisted immigration, that it is not the duty of the Government to find employment for those who are the victims of this huge conspiracy on the part of the master-class and their Government to glut the Labor market.

What steps will be taken by the forces of Labor throughout the State, to insure as many as possible employment remains to be seen, but there seems only one proposal worth considering, and that is to inaugurate a movement for the immediate reduction of the hours of labor, such a move on the part of the unions, if only their paid officials would take the lead, would meet with hearty support, and if carried out with success would compel the master class to absorb a large percentage of those unemployed if they desired to keep up the standard of production, while upon the other hand greater leisure would result, which in turn would go a long way to prevent physical degeneracy, due, as most medical men are prepared to frankly admit, to long, arduous hours of toil.

WILLS OF GREAT MEN.

By H. G. Cupples.

As wills give a peculiar insight into the character of those making them, the wills of our great American patriots may help us to better understand why they are considered great.

Virgil M. Harris says: "Out of every 100 people, 65 leave no estate at all, and less than 10 per cent of all the people leave amounts exceeding 5000 dollars.

Among the many items in the large estates of Patrick Henry were his slaves. He willed twenty of his slaves, "the pick of them all," to his wife. Patrick owned many slaves and never loosened his grip on a single one while saying "Give Me liberty or give me death." He must have gotten liberty even though he did not fight for it himself. (A case of "Let George do it.")

Henry Clay, who would "rather be right than be President," willed all his slaves to his wife, "except Harvey, Milton, Henry and Bob."

Andrew Jackson, the boasted friend of the common people, willed all his slaves to his adopted son.

And now comes George Washington, the hatchet man, who willed all his slaves to his wife. "Except I give immediate freedom to William Lee, a mulatto, who is crippled and unable to walk." Quoting the words of Washington himself in his will.

What kind of liberty does a slave owning class ever fight for? Liberty for their slaves, or liberty for themselves to get more slaves?

Neither Jesus Christ nor Karl Marx seem to have left a will.—New York Call.

IF. IF. IF.

If ifs and ands were pots and pans,
And cents were dollar bills;
If the lies we knew all turned out true
And workers had no ills;
If all on earth got all their worth,
And profits were no gain;
If to freeze at night were quite all right
And a good square meal a pain;
If a plutocrat could not get fat,
And wage-slaves not get thin;
If the gold from rent could not be spent
And every runner win;
If there were no need, nor vice, nor greed
Nor virtue throughout the land,
Then the Socialist would not be missed
But the present system stand.

Gerald J. Lively, Islay, Alta, in "Collon's Weekly."

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

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The Miners' Strike.

Victimisation and Tyranny.

Courts cases, enquiries, a Royal Commission, have all proved that Russell was victimised.

(By F. J. Riley.)

Recently a series of articles ran through this paper which clearly showed that the master weapon of the employing class to-day was that of victimisation.

The Russell case on the South Coast was specially dealt with. It was pointed out that neither courts nor judges, parliaments nor decrees, in fact, nothing would avail the miners without they were industrially organised.

This case has been hanging fire for some five months. Court cases, enquiries, a royal commission, have all been held. Each proved that Russell was victimised.

The Government recognised the fact, but recognising that they were powerless to order his reinstatement, they promised to make a job for him. They promised or gave the miners of this district to understand that a new mines inspector would be created for this district, and that he would get the job. This, of course, was only prostituting a principle, still it pacified the men. They were led to believe, if he got this job, they had vindicated themselves. This was foolishness. The job was made, an inspector was appointed. Mr. A. Waugh, late treasurer of the union was appointed and Russell was left out in the cold.

Dame Rumour says some very funny things about Mr. Waugh. It is common property on the coalfields that when the late Mr. Andrew Gray, who was secretary of the Illawarra Coal Mines' Association, died, nominations were called to fill the place. Three coal miners in the district nominated, they were Peter Bowling, James Russell, and Andrew Waugh. Russell, realising that the fight lay between Bowling and Waugh, withdrew from the contest, so that he would not split the votes. When he signified his intention of withdrawing certain influential pressure was brought to bear on him for the purpose of keeping him in the fight, so that the votes would be split, and Waugh get the secretaryship. Russell refused to be used as a catspaw for the mine owners. This was the beginning of his troubles. No stone was left unturned to oust him from the colliery in which he was working. They succeeded in their work, and Russell was victimised. The mine owners recognised that he would be a dangerous man to have as an inspector, and strange to relate, he didn't get the job, but the other gentleman, the man that aspired for the secretaryship, got it.

The miners on the Coast saw they were duped. They saw that neither the Government nor the employers intended to deal straight with them.

On Saturday evening, when it was made known who had received the job, there was a wave of indignation that swept right through the district. In Woollongong it was the only topic. The men were incensed to think that such a mean and contemptible trick had been played on them. Their indignation knew no bounds when the men from Bulli, who had come to town on Saturday evening, reported that two uniformed policemen had entered the union room at South Bulli and refused to leave.

The trouble at South Bulli is another Russell case, it is a pure case of victimisation. Two men were doing a class of work that is specially specified in the agreement made between the miners' organisation and the coal owners. The manager instructed them to do the work in such a manner that it broke the agreement. The men protested, they pointed out that they would be practically scabbing. They were told to choose between obeying the manager or the union. They chose the union. Instant dismissal was the result.

On Saturday afternoon, in the men's own time, the colliery was not laid idle, it was not a stop-work meeting, the men determined to hold a meeting to discuss the matter and forward a complaint on to the delegate board. Judge their dismay when the chairman declared the meeting open for the transaction of business in walked two uniformed policemen. They were requested to leave. A point blank refusal was given. The chairman then adjourned the meeting until Monday. This was the last straw. For the men know only too well that these Bulli men have not the slightest hope of ever again being reinstated, not even if it is proved that they were right in the stand they had taken in refusing to violate a union agreement. The South Coast miners are slaves, not mere wage slaves, but slaves in the furthest sense of the term. These two Bulli men have violated a special colliery rule. These special rules over-ride every law of the land. They over-ride wage board decisions, courts, the Government, the union, the individual and every recognised and administrative body. These special rules are made by the bosses. They are made in the bosses' interest. None else has any say. This is how they are made. A manager may wish to evade some clause in the agreement. He posts a notice up at the tunnel of the colliery. It may be just as an illustration: "Every employee must implicitly obey the foreman." This is left posted up for a number of days. If no one objects to its inclusion in the special rules it is sent down to Parliament House and is let lie on the table for a certain number of hours. If it is not objected to there it becomes a special rule and overrides everything else. Every miner when he enters into the employ of the colliery owners signs an agreement to obey these rules, and is on some mines given a printed copy of them. Some people who do not understand the coal fields, and the nature of the work will, no doubt, say this is a fair proposition. They will say that the men have power to object to any rule that is objectionable. This is true. But who dares object. The individual that objects only does so once, for he is ever afterwards a marked man, not only in that one colliery, but along the whole field. Further than this, these rules are now in force, so who can object to them, even if they wished. The irony of the whole thing is—that there are close on three hundred of these special rules. These Bulli men broke one of these special rules when they obeyed the union's agreement. This is on what the fight hinges. The men demand that the power of the bosses to make these special rules must be abolished. They realise that these special rules relegate them back to the days of feudalism. Every miner is living in constant dread of these special rules. He only needs to do something that meets with the displeasure of the boss and he is dealt with by a special rule.

The fight has begun. The men have fearful odds to face. The courts are busy at present, and a call has been made on them to issue an injunction to prevent the men's leaders from speaking to them. The police attend every miners' meeting. It has never been yet known where they attended an employers' meeting. The Waugh appointment plainly shows where the Government is.

The coal miners are in for a severe fight. They are determined to see it out. It rests with organised Labor to marshall its forces in such a way as to prevent any organised scabbery. Let it be impressed upon every unionist that the handling of any coal produced by scab labor is scabbing.

That the handling of any coal produced in this or any other country, and used with the object of defeating these men is scabbing. Organised labor must choose its side. Sufferings there will be, but remember thousands of you men that whine and wail about losing a week or two of wages would willingly sacrifice your lives if it were a call of patriotism, a call of your so-called flag, you were prepared to glorify those that went all the way to Africa to get slaughtered for the flag. How much nobler is it to aid your mates to get better conditions. There will be no martial music to cheer you in this fight. There will be no plaudits from a hireling Press. There will be no sermons preached from the pulpit in eulogy of your action. No, there will be nothing but curses and abuse, lies and villification.

The call has been made, workers must now chose between plaudits and scabbery, or curses and triumphant organised labor.

The call is made. Choose your side.

"A HUMAN SACRIFICE."

INSCRIPTION ON A GRAVE.

ZEEHAN (Tas.), Monday.—An interesting development has taken place regarding the removal of the inscription, "A human sacrifice on the altar of dividends," from the grave of St. Clare Stone, who was killed in the Mount Lyell mine.

The Queenstown Municipal Council, proceeding under the Cemeteries Act, had the inscription removed. It was held to be offensive and untrue in substance and fact by unprejudiced people. Deceased's mother has now made a special visit from Launceston, and replaced the epitaph writing on a tablet and placing it under the glass enclosing a wreath. Mrs. Stone has issued a public warning against interference with the grave of her son.

Legal action and a test case are probable.

Economic Warfare.

It is Interests that Govern.

The Marxian Key of History. Its application to present and future conditions.

(Continued.)

In 1897 a Convention was elected to frame a Constitution, and on January 1, 1901, Lord Hopetoun was sworn in as Governor-General of the Commonwealth. The elections for the first Parliament took place on the 29th and 30th March, when 16 Labor members were returned to the House of Representatives, and eight to the Senate, or 24 for the whole parliament.

After its success at the first Commonwealth elections the Labor Party continued the same policy of "Support for Concessions," which its members had adopted in the State Parliaments, and the old Freetrade and Protectionist parties were no more comfortable than they were in the State Legislatures. Their disappointment at the outcome of the first elections was keen and could not be hidden. Their old battles had to be fought over again, because under the Commonwealth constitution the customs had been transferred to the Federal Government.

As a compromise between the hostile interests of Freetraders and Protectionists it was decided that there should be freetrade between the States of the Commonwealth, and protection against the outside world. Neither party liked this arrangement, for each hoped for and had worked for its own principles, and the defeat of its opponent. And when we study their economic interests we see how natural and even inevitable their differences were. The goal of the protectionist manufacturers' party was to shut out the foreigner, and manufacture and supply all local requirements, while that of the freetrade party was to allow importation to proceed as freely as possible and compel the local manufacturers to compete against the world.

When the Federal Constitution was formed, then, neither of the old parties liked it, and each hoped that in the long run it would dominate the situation and Life-long freetraders like George Reid and Joseph Cook on the one hand, and life-long protectionists like Alfred Deakin and Sir William Lyne on the other, could not bring themselves to sink the fiscal question and work together, but each resolved to continue the good fight for the old cause.

Between these two, the intrusion of a third party in the name of labor was as inconvenient as it had been in the State Parliaments, and the old leaders had perforce to adopt the old policy of buying support with concessions, against which the Opposition and its Press railed furiously.

It is unnecessary to follow the Federal Labor Party through all its adventures, for all that is required is to note how it fared generally between the opposing interests when they were in power.

When the Freetraders achieved power under George Reid and Mr. McLean, little in the way of concessions was obtained. The astute Reid had, in New South Wales State Parliament, experienced how irksome political life was with a third party demanding concessions, and had made an attempt to relieve the tension by allowing Mr. McLean (Protectionist) to share the Premiership. He was known as half-Premier Reid, but he gained some support from Protectionists who regarded Mr. McLean's presence in the Cabinet as a guarantee that their interests would not be seriously attacked.

This fusion of Freetraders and Protectionists, due as it was to the intrusion of the Labor Party, was the most important advance made under the Reid regime. Apparently an insignificant thing in itself, it was nevertheless a first attempt to fuse the vested economic interests and weld them together so that they might stem the tide of on-coming Labor which threatened to sweep all before it, and which even then dominated the situation and compelled the interests to bid for its support. The fusion of Reidites and McLeanites was an indication that Labor was gradually driving the interests all into one camp where their various disguises would be discarded and they would be seen in their true colors as the opponents of Labor, and the defenders of privilege.

But the time for complete fusion was not ripe. The Protectionists under Sir William Lyne aimed at a tariff which should favor local manufacturers, and seeing that Reid could not carry on without a certain amount of Protectionist support, they never ceased to manoeuvre until they ousted and supplanted Mr. Reid.

When the Protectionists achieved power, it became necessary for them to placate Labor and gain support for an alteration of the tariff, and they made a sort of compact that if Labor would assist in carrying new Customs duties, favorable to the manufacturers, the party would afterwards assist the Labor Party to pass what was called the "New Protection," under which the workers in protected industries would obtain a fair share in the results accruing from the heavy Customs duties, which gave the manufacturers command of the local market and enabled them to supply more of the local demand, and also to control prices.

This was regarded by the Labor Party as a satisfactory arrangement, for under the "New Protection," its supporters, in the factories and workshops were to get their fair share of the increased prosperity resulting from the new Customs tariff. They trusted the Protectionists, and assisted to pass the tariff.

When the struggle over the tariff was over, the Labor Party demanded the fulfilment of the "New Protection" compact, and here the Protectionists showed their skill in political finesse. They had won a great deal for the manufacturers, and the latter could not see why the fruits of victory should be shared by those who were but the sellers of Labor power, the cost of which they reckoned with that of machinery, raw materials, etc.

However, the Protectionist Party, in the House made a brave show of granting Labor the New Protection, and passed certain measures giving the workers in protected industries a share in the benefits resulting from the tariff. This, of course, was pure pretence, for no sooner was an attempt made to put the New Protection into operation than the manufacturers took the matter to the High Court, where it was declared to be ultra vires, and unconstitutional.

The Labor Party was clearly dished, and out-generalled, but the victory of the Protectionist Party did a great deal to open the eyes of the rank and file of the Labor Party, who saw that they had gained nothing in assisting the manufacturers to defeat the importers. The battle of the interests was becoming so plain that even the blindest of Laborites could not fail to see it, and the Party was being driven more and more to the conclusion that it had nothing to hope for from its opponents, but must rely upon itself.

Whilst the Labor Party was being driven to this conclusion, the leaders of the old parties were being compelled to close up their ranks and act together. To them it was becoming manifest that their own differences were insignificant as compared with those that existed between themselves and the representatives of Labor. In all important divisions life-long political enemies were found voting together, their old feuds either forgotten or dwarfed in their minds by the new terror, which George Reid had christened the "Socialist Tiger." Their class interests were removing all difficulties, and paving the way for the most important event in the history of Australian politics—the fusion of all the old parties.

A NEW GOVERNOR.

On March 14, N.S.W. received her new Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, in the usual snobocratic fashion. He was met by the Premier and other members of the Government, and there were judges, barristers, soldiers, stock-jobbers, clergymen, aldermen, turfites, profit-mongers, and other loyal and patriotic citizens present to do him honor. The city was decorated with flags and foliage, and the papers had leading articles welcoming him to N.S.W. In trying to find out what all the fuss was about the average citizen turned to the articles in the Press, and found a snobbish appeal to regard the Governor as a wonderful personage, and his office as one of the highest importance. In some way the Press has come to regard a Governor as a kind of fetish, which is taken to various country towns to open shows and lay foundation stones while human troglodites stare with open-mouthed wonder. Every new Governor who arrives is a more wonderful being than the last, though the new personage may be told that his predecessor "left his stamp upon the community and won a warm corner in the hearts of everyone." After that is said, we are told that the new "representative of Royalty has a lofty standard to reach, and a lofty tradition to maintain," but "we have not the slightest doubt that he is fully equal to the occasion." It is then deplored that "in certain quarters there is a tendency to underestimate the importance of the place, a State Governor fills in the community," and we gather that a "State Governor can exercise for good or ill a very potent influence." Dark hints are thrown out regarding the "valuable service" which a State Governor

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A.S.P. News & Notes.

National Executive.

Branches can be represented by proxy delegates at the forthcoming annual Conference. The names of delegates should be forwarded at once to the undersigned.

The Agenda will appear in next issue of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.

H. L. DENFORD,
8 Stephen's Buildings, Windmill-St.
Millers Point, Sydney

SYDNEY.

Wonderful meetings! Large and interested audiences! Big sales of literature! Great collections! And good speeches, have been the result of our last week's work.

Sunday afternoon found the sun shining brightly, with a gentle breeze, and the Domain crowded with people. Striking miners from the South coast, and Ferry hands from the Sydney Ferries were there in unusual numbers.

Comrade Ben Jones, of Wollongong, occupied the chair at our meeting, and introduced Com. Willis, President of the Southern Miners, as the first speaker. The speaker dealt at some length with the position on the South Coast and detailed the evolution of the trouble to its present stage. The other speakers were Comrades Roche, Whitmore, Jones, and Mr. Peter Bowling, Secretary of the Southern Miners, who supplemented the President's able statement of the position of the miners of the Southern districts.

The evening meetings were carried to a successful issue by Coms. Condren, Denford, Riley, Gordon and Whitmore.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held at the Queen's Halll, Pitt-st., on Thursday, April 3, at 8 p m.

CECIL WHITMORE,
Secretary.

PERTH.

Friday night found a large crowd of working people in the vicinty of our usual pitch who surrounded our platform and formed an attentive audience for the opening remarks of our chairman, Comrade Parkinson, who is well versed in industrial conditions in England, and able to point out the causes of the seething discontent now disturbing the minds of the capitalist class. He was followed by our veteran comrade M. Millar, who delivered a clear and reasoned address on the materialist conception of history, taking great trouble to illustrate his statements by examples well within the comprehension of his working class audience. This address appeared to be well appreciated by those present, who at the close of the meeting, split up into small groups to debate the matter in their own way. This good business was resumed on Sunday on the Esplanade, where a nucleus of an audience awaited the arrival of the Socialist speakers under the grateful shade of none too plentiful trees. Parkinson opened the proceedings in his usual style, gradually getting his audience into a proper mood, and so opening the way for plain logic to follow; pointing out that while the master class viewed with dismay the tendency of the workers to associate, yet the masters were themselves quick to realise the benefits of association. The speaker pointed out that so far back as the early 18th century, Dr. Adam Smith in "Wealth of Nations," Chapter II., clearly states, "This division of labor (co-operation) from which so many advantages are derived, is not originally the effect of any human wisdom, which foresees and intends that general opulence to which it gives occasion. It is the necessary slow and gradual consequence of a certain **propensity in human nature.**

Comrade M. O'Shannessey next took the stump, armed with a copy of Mr. Norman Angel's work on war, and proceeded to show that the work referred to proved that modern capitalistic war was a failure. He showed that the working class of the winning nation suffered through loss of work, owing to imports coming into their country in the form of indemnites. This made a marked impression at the time. Our hope is that it may be a lasting one. We must continue to rap on the worker's brainbox anent this conscription, and leave no stone unturned to make them perceive the menace to themselves underlying the action of one authoritarian. Let the men realise that apathy may one sunny morn mean **Bullets for Breakfast.**

Comrade Hokin also made a spirited address impromptu and full of indignation at the apathy of the workers, in conceding to the capitalist full rights in the "art of acquisition."

The usual Sunday night meeting was also a good one, and under the bowl of night the residents of Perth reclined on the turf and listened to Millar, Hopkins, Parkinson, O'Shannassy. Here it was shown that the insincerity of capitalism compelled the politicians to ever seek ways to patch up society, to invent, scheme, repeal, and so on without cease all by kind aid from the workers.

Good sales of literature were made at these meetings. The Perth branch are looking out for suitable premises for headquarters, and the intention is to organise classes to further educate the members.

C. PARKINSON, Secretary.

BELLINGEN NOTES.

Thanks for papers which we are making use of. Rain, circuses, and the blaring opposition of two brass bands have militated against our street propaganda, but the distribution of the "I.S." will do good work.

The local paper (or advertising sheet) has had a stab at us because we had the temerity to doubt the revolutionary possibilities of a Beeby. No attempt was made to refute our argument; the editor just stating that the "usual tirade against capitalism was made," no doubt imagining that he was a capitalist because he didn't wield a pick. It is really remarkable, in these way back villages, how all the petty aristocracy (?) imagine that they are capitalists, and when a Socialist comes along are ready to hound him out of the place, fearing a covert attack on their hard earned cash. However, we can leave such cockroaches to learn their lesson from the development and intensification of the system verb. sap. It is with deepest regret that Comrade Quinton and myself have to report that a relentless fate has compelled a return to work. I think it was Oscar Wilde who once said that "men only work from necessity or caprice." Quinton and I are not of a capricious nature where work is concerned. On our way to the scene of our sufferings we had a chat with a farmer who was an ardent supporter of the White Australia Policy. We told him that we were going to a job of 'seed pulling.' He raised our spirits by informing us that we should make good money, as he knew a nigger who was making 25/- a day. This same nigger had worked for him and he had found him to be a most useful slave, needing no watching. The majority of whites, he told us, wouldn't work unless one had an eye on them. The inconsistency of some White Australia advocates' is stupendous, still I think he praises the white slaves unduly. My experience has demonstrated that generally it is the 'darkey' who is cute enough and wise enough to dodge work. Well, I must close for it's a case of "Work for the night is coming.' Kind regards to all.

GORDON BROWN.

Newtown.

The following letter was sent to Archbishop Kelly by the Secretary of Newtown branch.

64, Bellvue Street,
Glebe, Feb. 17, 1913.

My Lord Archbishop,—With all due respect to you, personally, and to the position you occupy, as head of the Church of Rome in Australia, I have been instructed, by the Socialist branch to which I am Secretary, to tax your kindness to the extent of asking you to answer a brief question or two.

The questions I wish to ask are concerning a statement made by you and published in a recent issue of the "Sydney Morning Herald," announcing the preclusion of Socialists from the newly-formed "Catholic Federation of Australia. Now, we are desirous of ascertaining does Your Lordship think the economic ideas held and taught by Socialists would prevent them from being, at the same time, Christians? And further, what are the pernicious characteristics of Socialists that you do not require their presence in the ranks of an organization such as we Conceive the "Catholic Federation of Australia" to be? I, finally, venture so far upon yo courtesy as to enquire if you are in favour of the System of Child Conscription in force in this country at the present time? We as International Socialists regard the present Conscription Act as a retrograde measure and a primary step in the direction of the purloining of citizen rights of masses of the Australian people. We think the existence of such military laws in this country is only helping to prolong, throughout the world, the abominable system of legalised murder called war, especially when some of our politicians give vent to their jingoistic sentiments.

We sincerely hope we do not offend Your Lordship by asking the above questions. Trusting you will give us the enlightenment we desire.—I am, yours respectfully,

J. FORAN, Secretary.

The Archbishop's reply.

Rep. To every man worthy of his own in creation the fear of God and the observance of His law is everything.
24-2-13.

COFF'S HARBOUR.

Just a little space please for my monthly review if you can spare it. In some cases it may help to clear the mists in the eyes of those who support the Wages Board methods adopted by our Labor crowd. We have a private company building a tram line here, known as the B.A.T., an dthey are not paying the Award. In fact, I am told that they ignore the union, for all their complaints have always remained to reach the scrap heap. But, perhaps, Con. Hogan does not know this, poor chap he is always in a hurry—when there is trouble ahead for his Labor Party—to get to some other place. Now, note another Labor Party is so low for the general laborer that they have to pay more than the award to get men to work the sawmill. Yet this is the same company voluntarily paying more than the sawmill award; yet on the other hand evidently out to fight the railway award. What price an I.W.W. argument here in reference to the two awards. But what can you expect? For the District Secretary is only temperary and he has no committee to help him in his work. Most likely he is a born lighter I don't think, and does not want any assistance from his fellow workers to carry out the Union work. He thinks that by holding meetings once a month at the Repton end of the line that he is doing his duty. What about the other end or the middle? Never mind, you socialist, it is alright for Organiser Con. Hogan in the "Navvy" reports him as doing yeoman service to the Union.

A Bush Nurse has been placed on this line, with money collected from the Railway Workers, by the officials of that Lady Dudley Concern. It is supported by Con Hogan, who said that he was in support of it so long as the men were in favour of it and no longer. Yet this same organiser promised the leading woman in it that he would get the men to support it. Why did he change his mind? Because "Mr. Red-ragger" he wanted to hold his job a little longer and changed his mind because the men are dissatisfied with the Bush Nurse. Another reason he is class-conscious and wants these social butterflies to ride on the backs of the wage slaves who support the likes of himself. Awhile back before the conference the late District Secretary wanted to pick up the organiser and told me he did not know the Organiser's private address, yet strange to tell, the wife of the Engineer on this line told me that Con Hogan left her his private address. He could leave a fixed address to the Engineers' office but could not leave one with a union official? "Nuff Sed!"

It is to be regretted that Con Hogan holds such sway with the men. Note the Conference voting. One required, Con Hogan, 139; S. M'Carthy, 63; J. Dodd, 43.

If some speakers in the socialist cause could get along this line they would, I am sure, do a little good. It is so difficult to get along the line and also to get the railway men to come to any meeting. I tried to form a debating club a while back and only got 14 to turn up. If only Quinton and his comrade instead of speaking in a cockey town like Belligen had only come ten miles nearer Coff's Harbour and spoke in the heart of the railway camp he would have routed out a few socialists I am told.

I am told there are six in Thompson's gang. Some day we will have them in every gang. What price Commander Hogan then? If this meets the eyes of the above men I wish they would pick me up by letter. I will shortly be holding a meeting at Repton to push the sale of the Industrial Unionist, the I.W.W. paper recently came to light in N.Z.

Well, Mr. Editor, I think I will say farewell for the present hoping things are alright and that socialist ranks are increasing.—I am, etc.,

JAMES DODD
c/o Jetty Post Office,
Coff's Harbour,
N.S.W.

Police Persecution.

Last week Coms. Whitmore and Condren were the victims. Com. Whitmore got 48 hours for his portion, and Com. Condren 24 hours. So far the authorities have not made a single penny in fines, but have lost a couple of hundred pounds in court and jail expenses.

So far the record of Labor Government persecution is: Comrades Denford and Brown 24 hours each at Wollongong. Comrade Denford 14 days and Com. Riley 7 days at same place. Coms. Denford, Whitmore, and Mandeno each 3 days at Sydney. Com. Whitmore 48 hours, and Com. Condren 24 hours at Sydney.

Laborites should adopt as their warcry for next election: "Three cheers for Labor and Down with Free Speech."

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

Rozelle—M. Moore, Griffin Talbot.
Leichhardt—Young.
Newtown—Duffield, Walsh, Kilburn.
Bathurst-St., Condren, Jones, Roche.

SUNDAY.

Afternoon: Domain, Condren, Jones, Roche, Riley.
Evening: Market-St., Gordon, Slade, Riley.
Park-St., Condren, Roche, Dangar.
Balmain—C. Moore, Talbot.
Newtown—Duffield, Walsh, Kilburn, Foran.

Press and Maintenance Fund.

Already acknowledged £12 0s 1d. Collected at Club Social 3s 11d, and 1s 5d, J. Ibbottson 5s. Total £12 13s 3d.

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performs under divine guidance while the man in the street benightedly plods along never suspecting that an infinitely beneficent Providence has appointed a benevolent and all-powerful representative to watch his interests from a great white throne in a Government House temple. No one is ever allowed to ask in the columns of the Press what are the priceless services which a State Governor performs, and no one dares to attempt their revelation. A curtain hides the joss from the vulgar, and homage can only be paid at a distance by all excepting the elect. Every new Governor who arrives provokes a more enthusiastic snivel than the last, and it becomes very uncertain whether in the process of evolution the Australian citizen is not returning to the recumbent position his troglodite ancestors moved in when they went about on "all fours." The only thing that will save them is the failure of the Press to invent or add anything new to the language of grovel. All their loyal epithets have been used up over and over again, and their leading articles have been used as often as the sermons in any Anglican Church. The first article written to welcome the first Governor might easily be used to welcome the last, and no one would suspect that it had not been specially written for the occasion. In fact, such articles are everywhere so much alike, that those written in one part of the British Empire could be made in any other part without any notable difference being observed.

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